under the scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development for Destination and Circuit of Ministry of Tourism. These funds are sanctioned and released based on the proposals received from the State/UT Government concerned. The capacity building including upgradation of skills are being supported for rural community through GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project and the Scheme of Capacity Building for Service Providers of the Ministry.

(c) The details of Central Financial Assistance extended to State Government of Andhra Pradesh under the above mentioned schemes for infrastructure creation as well as Capacity Building during the last two years and till date are as follows:

Infrastructure Development

| | |
|---|---|
| i. Puttaparthi, Distt. Ananthpur | Rs. 49.50 lakh in 2004-05 |
| ii. Chinchinada, Distt. East Godavari | Rs. 50.00 lakh in 2004-05 |
| iii. Srikalahasthi, Distt. Chittoor | Rs. 50.00 lakh in 2004-05 |

Capacity Building

| | |
|---|---|
| i. Pochampalli, Distt. Nalgonda | Rs. 20.00 lakh in 2004-05 |
| ii. Srikalahasthi, Distt. Chittoor | Rs. 20.00 lakh in 2004-05 |

(d) The implementation of the projects sanctioned is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. However, the monitoring of the implementation of sanctioned projects is done regularly.

**Promotion of eco-tourism in Simlipal Hills in Orissa**

1608. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to promote eco-tourism in the Simplipal hills in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of help that is proposed to be rendered by the Centre to the State Government to promote eco-tourism in the State?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned a project related to Development of Simplipal in Distt. Mayurbhanj (Orissa) as a Tourist Destination in the year 2006-07 for an amount of Rs. 297.12 lakh.

(c) Based on the proposals received from the State Government of Orissa following other eco-tourism projects have been sanctioned during the year 2006-07:

1. Integrated Development of Koraput Circuit (Koraput-Deomali-Jeypore-Upper Kolab-Gupteshwar) for Rs. 692.00 lakh.
2. Integrated Development of Chandipur-Talasari-Udaypur-Chandaneswar-Remuna-Panchlingeswar-Nilagiri for Rs. 800.00 lakh.

**Development of cultural and heritage sites/monuments**

1609. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has launched a special drive for the expansion of cultural tourism with a few of the cultural and heritage sites/monuments taken up for the development include Red Fort, Humanyu's Tomb and Qutub Minar in Delhi and various other places in the State of Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, what are the complete programme of action plan prepared in this regard; and

(c) to what extent it will be helpful to improve the rural tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism extends central financial assistance to States/UTs for implementation of tourism projects prioritized in consultation with them which includes promotion and development of destinations/circuits having heritage sites/monuments. During the Tenth Plan period, Ministry of Tourism has so far sanctioned Rs. 444.81 crore and released Rs. 339.23 crore to the Governments of Delhi, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra as Central Financial Assistance.